CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	███
SUBJECT	1. The Avram Stoyanov Leather Factory	DATE DISTR.	16 February 1953
25X1A	2. Miscellaneous Leather Production Information		
	3. Textile Factories in Sliven	NO. OF PAGES	3
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE ██

The Avram Stoyanov Leather Factory

1. The Avram Stoyanov Leather Processing Factory, located in the Dame Gruiev industrial quarter of Sliven (N 42-40, E 26-19), is subordinate to the Ministry of Light Industry and is administered by the Leather and Rubber Trade Association. It was formed in 1947 by the amalgamation of seven private enterprises which were nationalized; these enterprises were as follows:

   a. Rafeal Krispin Factory, Sliven;

   b. Kemer Factory, Sliven;

   c. Demirev Factory, Sliven;

   d. Vasil Nikolov Factory, Burgas;

   e. Geno Semergiyev, Kotel (N 42-53, E 26-27);

   f. Panaiot Karambolov, Elkhovo (N 42-34, E 25-45); and

   g. A factory at Karnobat (N 42-39, E 27-00), whose equipment was dismantled and transferred to the Avram Stoyanov Factory.

2. The factory produces only soft leathers and processes only the following three types of raw hides:

   a. Sheep skins, which constitute its main production, totalling approximately 600 skins of 750 square centimeters per 8-hour day;

   b. Dog skins, approximately 5,000 per year; this is the only factory in Bulgaria which processes skins of this type; and

   c. Shark skin, quantity unknown.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

3. The plant has an administrative staff of 10, including the two managers--the general manager, a former worker who is an experienced tanner and an excellent administrator, and the technical manager who is a first-class expert. The factory works one shift only and employs approximately 60 workers, over half of whom are women.

4. Because of the shortage of hides and chemicals, the factory does not work to capacity.

5. The factory has the following machinery:

   a. Seven Bulgarian wooden leather rollers, capacity 1,500 to 5,000 kilograms;

   b. One German Turner polishing machine; and

   c. One German Turner horizontal cutting machine.

6. Sheep skins are supplied by the depot of the meat distribution center of the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with instructions received from the Leather and Rubber Trade Association. They are received from almost all the towns in Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, and Burgas districts; the winter months during which the stock is slaughtered supply requirements for the entire year. Approximately 70 percent of the skins go to state-owned factories, and the remaining 30 percent go to cooperatives. The Avram Stoyanov factory received approximately 18,000 sheep skins in December 1951, approximately 25,000 in January 1952, and approximately 10,000 in February 1952. The following prices were paid to the meat distribution center for these skins:

   a. First class skins, 250 leva per kilogram;

   b. Second class skins, 25 percent less than for first class skins; and

   c. Third class skins, 50 percent less than for first class skins.

7. Dog skins were received from all parts of the country.

8. Shark skins were supplied by a canning factory of Burgas.

9. A large proportion of the finished leather is delivered to a large military factory at Gabrovo, and part to factories producing shoes and fancy leather goods. The leather is sold at the following prices:

   a. Sheep skins, 8 leva per 100 square centimeters;

   b. Dog skins, 14 leva per 100 square centimeters; and

   c. Shark skins, 16.50 leva per 100 square centimeters.

10. An unknown quantity of sheep skins and large quantities of lamb skins are sent to the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and Western Germany in return for chemicals.

Miscellaneous Leather Production Information

11. At present, approximately 12 factories produce soft leather and an equal number produce hard leather. The production of soft leather is approximately sufficient to meet the requirements of the country. However, there is a severe shortage of hard leather, and sheet rubber, supplied by the USSR, is being used to a great extent as a substitute.

12. The country's stock of sheep is approximately 8,000,000; approximately 1,500,000 are slaughtered annually. There are very few cattle.

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13. There is a severe shortage of chemicals, particularly of tannin, which is required by factories producing hard leather, and for which a vegetable substitute made of Bulgarian plants is now used. Potassium chromate and antichlor are imported from Western Germany in insufficient quantities. Dyes are received from Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

14. Mandil Baku, a former worker and a Communist, was formerly manager of the Bulgarian Leather and Rubber Trade Association.

Textile Factories in Sliven

15. There are a number of textile factories in Sliven, including the following:

   a. The Georgi Dimitrov Wool Products Factory, employing approximately 900 workers;

   b. The Sebi Dimitrov Wool Products Factory, employing approximately 600 workers;

   c. The Georgi Kirkov Wool Products Factory, employing approximately 400 workers;

   d. The I May Wool Products Factory, employing approximately 250 workers;

   e. The Merino Wool Products Factory, employing approximately 300 workers; and

   f. The Sini Kameni Cotton Products Factory, employing approximately 500 workers.

16. The Pobeda Factory, which produces textile machinery, employs approximately 100 workers.

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